

1200 BLOCK NORTH TAYLOR STREET (HOUSES)
Arlington
Virginia

HABS VA-1437
VA-1437

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

1200 BLOCK OF NORTH TAYLOR STREET (HOUSES)

HABS No. VA-1437

Location: The 1200 block of North Taylor Street is in the Ballston area of Arlington County, Virginia.

The coordinates for the 1200 Block of North Taylor Street are 38.885806N, 77.11335W; these were obtained using Google Earth in August 2010 and, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Description: The 1200 block of North Taylor Street includes several of Arlington's distinctive apartment bungalows and possibly (at No. 1210) the spec house for the type as it emerged between 1938 and 1940.¹ The apartment bungalow is characterized by a square footprint, pyramidal roof, center chimney, and wrap-around windows at each corner. The apartment bungalow is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond or concrete-block that is stuccoed. Contrasting masonry is typically found in the door surrounds in order to set the entrance apart. Influenced by the Modern Movement in architecture that popularized the Art Deco, Streamline Moderne, and International styles, the apartment bungalows have minimal applied ornamentation, have metal window frames, and are made with other contemporary materials such as glass block.

History: The apartment bungalow in Arlington speaks to the shift in demographics that occurred in the years immediately before the United States entered into World War II wherein the rural county with its network of communities was suburbanized by large numbers of new residents employed by the government. Accommodating these newcomers elicited a period of experimentation with residential architecture that included the rowhouses of GlebeWood Village (HABS No. VA-1415), apartment buildings like Calvert Manor (HABS No. VA-1424), garden apartment complexes such as Buckingham (HABS No. VA-1339) and Colonial Village, as well as other, similarly-scaled single family houses known as Lustrons (HABS No. VA-1414). As the innovative Lustron houses were, the apartment bungalow was constructed quickly and was reasonably priced.

Sources: Files, Arlington Heritage Alliance.
Site visit, July-August 2010.

Historian: Virginia B. Price, 2010.

¹ Lauren Hassel to Arlington Heritage Alliance, Nomination to the "Most Endangered List" 2006. Hassel lives in one example of the apartment bungalow, and in response to the demolition of many of the houses, began to research the apartment bungalow as a house type in order to increase awareness of its architectural significance.

Figure 1. Elevation view of 1244 North Taylor Street. (Photograph by author, 2010).

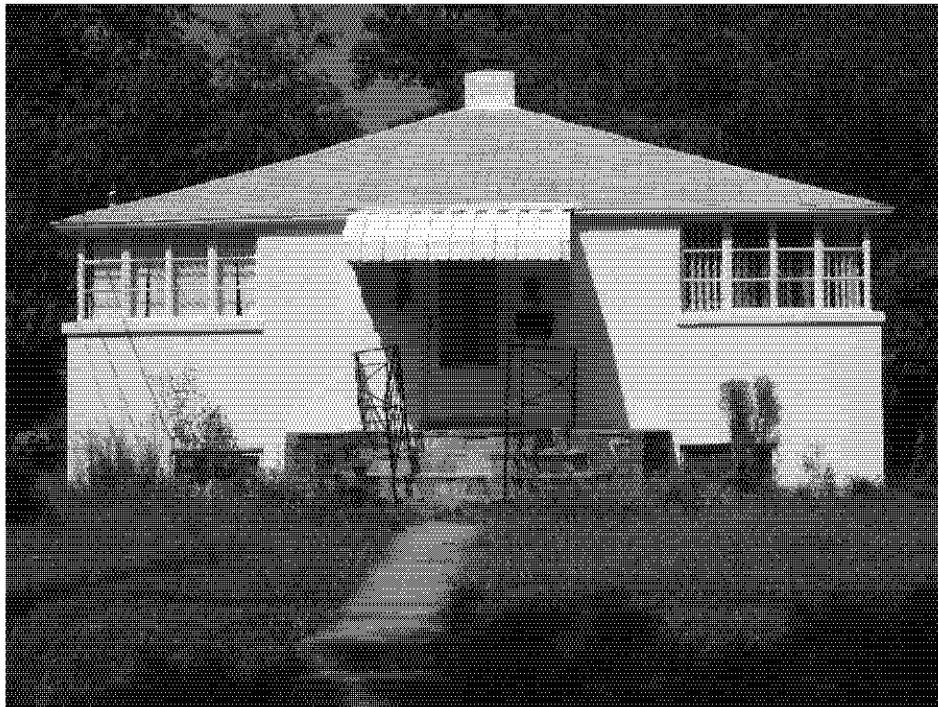


Figure 2. Perspective view of 1219 North Taylor Street. Note another example, No. 1215, to the right. (Photograph by author, 2010).



Figure 3. 1210 N. Taylor Street. (Photograph by author, 2010).

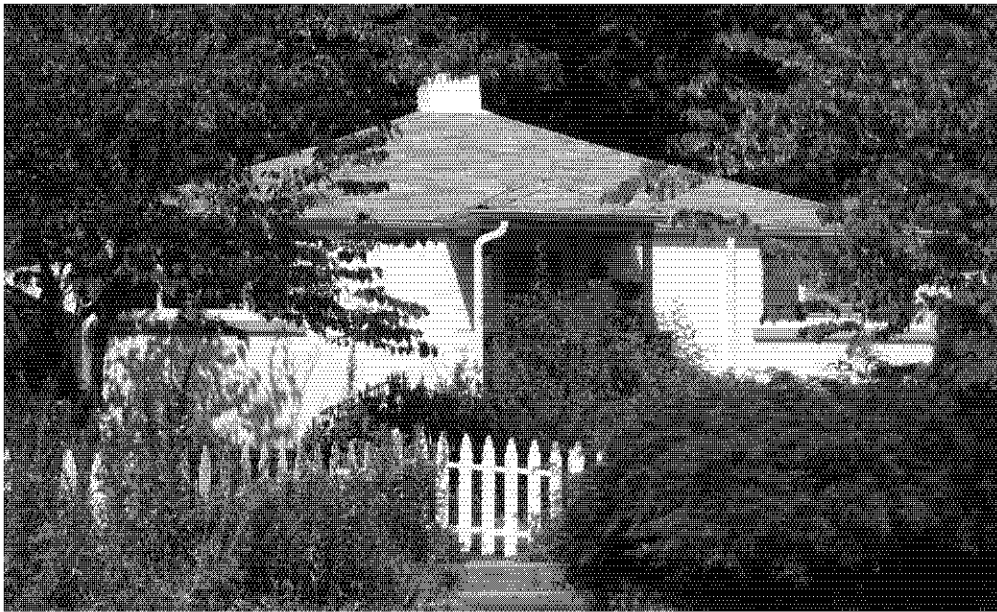


Figure 4. Perspective view of 1207 N. Taylor Street. (Photograph by author).

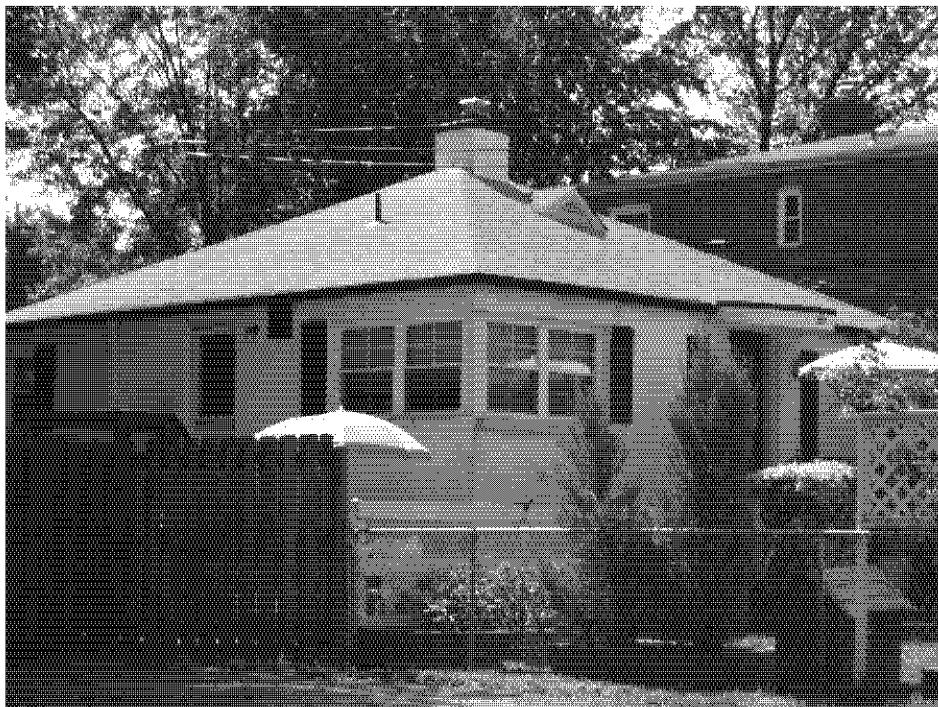


Figure 5. Perspective view looking to 1212 N. Taylor Street and the two-story, Colonial Revival house at 1216 N. Taylor Street, to illustrate the historic neighborhood's architectural variety, scale of the houses and their lots. (Photograph by author, 2010).

